to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all the stake holders. The Annual Action Plan in this regard is prepared by the State Horticulture Mission Societies and approved by the Executive Committee of NHM duly ensuring end to end linkages. Setting up of 490 markets have been envisaged during the Tenth Plan.

Collection of Royalty by Monsanto

579. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the multinational bio-technological company Monsanto is collecting exorbitant royalty from farmers in our country;

(b) whether the royalty charged by the company is much higher than its charges in the U.S.;

(c) if so, whether complaints have also been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) M/s. Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd. And its sub-licencee companies are reportedly charging Rs. 1250/- as trait value for 450 gms. of Bt. cotton hybrid seeds.

(c) and (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh and President, Andhra Pradesh Ryotu Sangam, Hyderabad have filed complaints against M/s Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd. Before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission for charging exorbitant trait value on Bt. Cotton hybrid seeds. The MRTP Commission has ordered a preliminary investigation into the alleged monopolistic/restrictive and unfair trade practices of the Company.

Research on wheat and rice production

580. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any periodic research in agriculture has been conducted to increase agriculture production of wheat and rice in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof till date, item-wise;

(c) whether any survey has been undertaken to monitor the impact of these researches on agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting research to increase the production and productivity of wheat and rice in the country. All India Co-ordinate Crop Improvement Projects (AICRP) in rice and wheat started in 1965 to develop superior varieties and hybrids combining high yield and acceptable quality of grain, wider adaptability and resistance to major pests and diseases with presently 46 (Rice) and 30 (Wheat) funded Centres across the country located in the State Agricultural Universities/ other Institutions.

Besides, research on wheat and rice are also being conducted at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack and Directorate of Rice Research are engaged in Rice Research. Similarly, Directorate of Wheat Research at Karnal is engaged in Wheat Research in the country.

So far, more than 700 varieties and 23 hybrids have been developed in rice, while in wheat more than 300 varieties suitable for different agro-climatic ecologies have been evolved. Appropriate crop production and protection technologies have also been developed. Resource conservation technologies such as Zero till, Bed planting have also been developed and refined. The breeders seed of high yielding varieties of wheat & rice and parental line of hybrids have also been produced to made available quality seeds to the farmers.

The varieties, hybrids and technologies have contributed immensely for enhancing the production and productivity of wheat and rice in the country.

(c) and (d) Impact of agricultural research in India have been evaluated from time-to-time. These results have shown that agricultural research has been a major source of productivity growth and poverty reduction in

India. The resource conservation technologies are spreading rapidly in the rice-wheat system. In case of rice, by brides of rice are spreading rapidly covering more than 7.5 lakhs hectare with advantage of 1 to 1.5 tonnes per hectare in yield. Wheat variety such as PBW-343 alone occupies more than 5 million hectare of land contributing higher productivity. Frontline demonstrations have also created great awareness about improved varieties and production technologies, facilitated availability of latest varieties to the farmers and also resulted in spread of high yielding varieties. Farmers adopting these technologies and improved seeds have been benefited by way of enhanced productivity and increased returns.

Criteria for MSP in Madhya Pradesh

581. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take action on the demand of Madhya Pradesh to declare support price for 2006-07 on the basis of unit cost provided by the State; and

(b) if so, by when the declaration would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Uniform Minimum Support Prices are fixed for the selected principal crops in the country, which are applicable to the crops grown in Madhya Pradesh also. The Government decides on the support price agricultural commodities after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices.

The CACP, while formulating its recommendations on price policy considers the inputs provided by various State Governments as also a number of important factors which include cost of production, changes in inputs prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price situation and parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers.